AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for configuring modules in a data processing system, for controlling a technical plant, comprising:

utilizing decentralized and centralized <u>hardware</u> modules that are networked with one another to provide a stored program control of plant functions, wherein the decentralized, plant-side modules each have a respective dedicated configuration module; and

for one of the plant functions to be controlled, at least one of configuring and parameterizing the plant-side modules with the respective dedicated configuration modules.

2. (original): The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the control of the technical plant comprises an open-loop control.

3. (original): The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the control of the technical plant comprises a closed-loop control.

4. (original): The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the networked modules exchange at least one of data and program parts via at least one of an internal and an external network, to support the configuration.

5. (original): The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising supporting the configuration of the plant-side modules using a programming device equipped with a configuration module that is essentially identical to at least one of the configuration modules of the plant-side modules.

6. (currently amended): A component structured to configure a module in a data processing system, for controlling a technical plant, in which system decentralized and centralized <u>hardware</u> modules are networked with one another to provide a stored program control of plant functions, wherein the decentralized, plant-side modules each have a respective dedicated configuration module, comprising:

hardware configuration software with which at least one of the plant-side <u>hardware</u> modules corresponding to the component is at least configured or parameterized.

7. (original): The component according to claim 6, wherein the component comprises a software component.

8. (original): The component according to claim 6, wherein the component comprises a firmware component.

9. (currently amended): A circuit arrangement for configuring a module in a data processing system, for controlling a technical plant, in which system decentralized and centralized <u>hardware</u> modules are networked with one another to provide a stored program control of plant functions, wherein the decentralized, plant-side modules each comprise a

dedicated configuration module, wherein the decentralized, plant-side modules each comprise a

microprocessor and memory components storing the dedicated configuration module, and

wherein the microprocessor and memory components configure the respective plant-side

module.

10. (original): The circuit arrangement as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising:

a standardized network connection for interconnecting the respective plant-side modules

with one another; and

a further standardized network connection with a software component configured as a

browser for connecting the respective plant-side modules to an Internet.

11. (previously presented): The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dedicated

configuration module of each of the decentralized, plant-side modules is decoupled from the

other dedicated configuration modules of the decentralized, plant-side modules and wherein the

decentralized, plant-side modules are configured independently of the other decentralized, plant-

side modules.

12. (previously presented): The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dedicated

configuration module of the respective decentralized, plant-side module is separately and

independently updated and wherein the other plant-side modules are not involved during the

updating.

13. (currently amended): The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dedicated configuration module is prestored ~~stored~~ in the respective, decentralized, plant-side hardware module and wherein the dedicated configuration module comprises configuration data that configures hardware of the respective ~~is associated only with the respective~~, decentralized, plant-side hardware module.

14. (previously presented): The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the respective, decentralized, plant-side module is manufactured with the dedicated configuration module being stored therein.

15. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the decentralized and centralized hardware modules are in the technical plant and wherein each of the decentralized and centralized hardware modules execute a function of a technical process executed in the technical plant.

16. (new): The method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the decentralized and centralized hardware modules are within STEP 7 language.